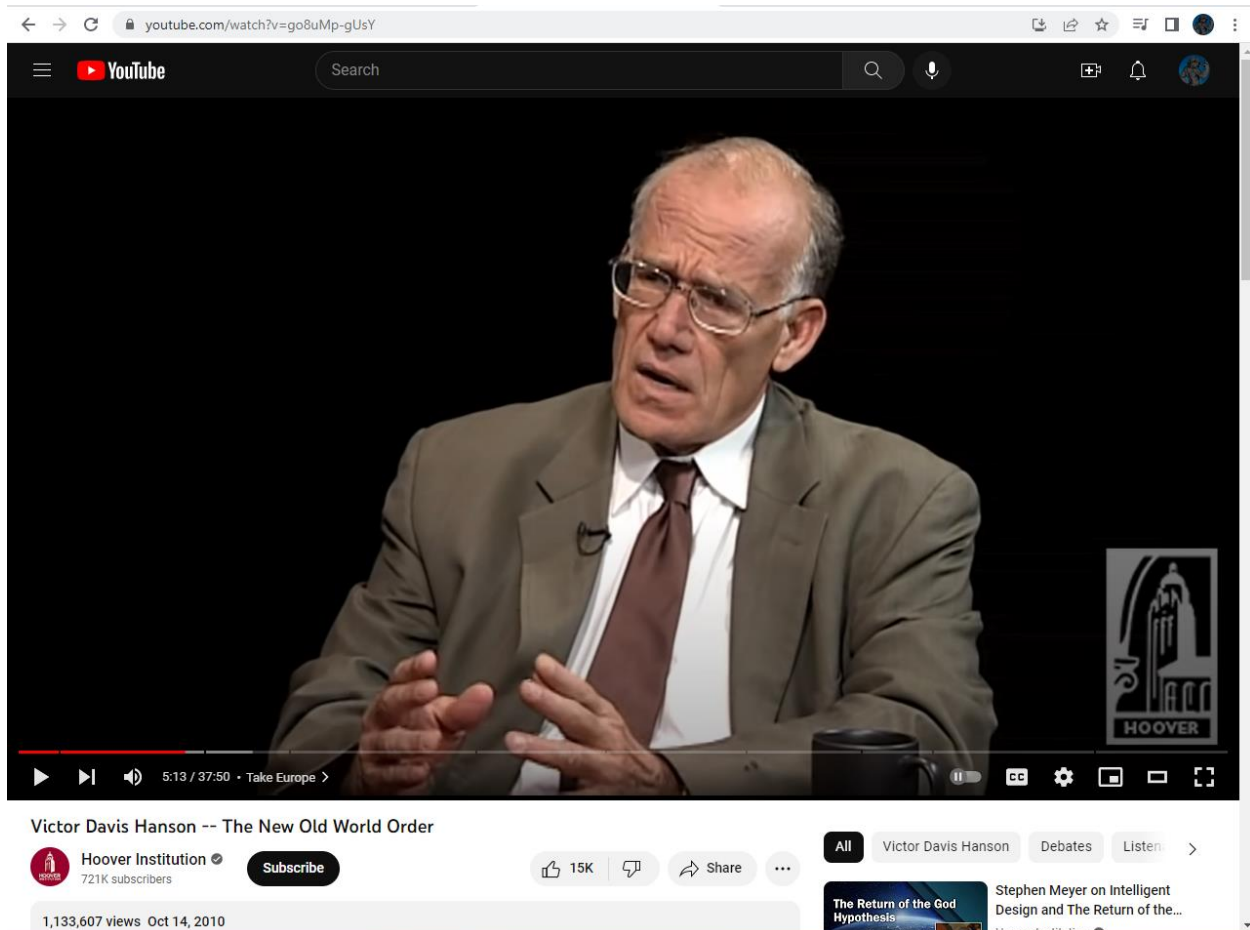


The New Old World Order | Victor Davis Hanson

(2010-10-04)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=go8uMp-gUsY>

Description Section:

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and military historian, professor of classics, and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is the author of more than a dozen and a half books. His most recent volumes are *Makers of Ancient Strategy: From the Persian Wars to the Fall of Rome*, which Dr. Hanson edited, and *The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern*, a volume of Dr. Hanson's own essays.

Beginning with an explanation of why the post-Cold War New World Order is rapidly breaking apart, Victor Davis Hanson sees a world where nations are returning to the ancient passions, rivalries, and differences of past centuries. In light of this world transformation, Hanson looks at key challenges the United States faces around the globe: in Europe, Asia, Russia, Mexico, and Iran.

Transcript: (Auto-Generated)

0:00

welcome to uncommon knowledge i'm peter robinson uh be sure to follow us by the way on twitter at twitter.com

0:08

unc knowledge twitter.com unc knowledge send comments suggestions

0:14

uh let us know the guests you'd like to see a classicist and military historian victor davis hansen is a fellow at the

0:21

hoover institution at stanford he's the author of countless and they are countless i tried to do a

0:26

count victory countless essays and columns and of books that include warfare and agriculture in classical greek

0:33

greece the western way of war infantry battle in classical greece a war like no other how

0:38

the athenians and spartans fought the peloponnesian war carnage and culture landmark battles in

0:44

the rise to western power and that names about a third of your opus i think

0:49

our topic today an essay that dr hansen published on national review online this autumn entitled the new old world order

0:58

quote i'm quoting you victor the post-cold war new world order is rapidly breaking

1:04

apart nations are returning to the ancient passions rivalries and differences of past centuries close

1:11

quote very briefly why is this happening

1:16

well it's happening because all of these artificial constructs like the european union or the united nations

1:23

or even things like nato they have a small shelf life and they're not as strong emotions as tribal affinities

1:30

ethnic affinities religious affinities and so the world is returning the way it's always been all right

1:36

segment one take europe victor davis hanson quote take europe the decades-old vision of a united

1:42

europe is dissolving divides between germany and greece for example remain too wide

1:48

to be bridged by fumbling bureaucrats in brussels close quote the european union they just

1:56

celebrated their 50th anniversary a couple of years ago to enormous um

2:02

self-acclaim at least so what's going on well there'll always be a european union that just won't do anything

2:07

it'll be sort of like the masonic lodge today in small town america

2:12

it's going to be there but nobody's going to really belong or do much to it so when i read the greek newspapers

2:18

today or i read the german newspapers it reminds me of 1939 you got all the stereotypes that you've

2:24

always had there's sunny people down south in places like italy and spain and greece and there's ladies and

2:30

serious yes they're yelling they wave their hands they don't know how to do accounting

2:35

they take siestas and then there's all these rigid nordic and germanic peoples that are working from six to six to pay

2:41

for them that hasn't changed it goes back to antiquities so the european union tried to by fiat or

2:48

convention say that they wouldn't exist anymore those differences but the difference between greece and germany is much more than

2:55

mississippi and minnesota well so you just said that the european union will just sort of continue to exist all those bureaucrats

3:02

in strasbourg and brussels will remain in place but become irrelevant yes i think it'll be just kind of a dead

3:07

weight on european society will the euro the currency

3:12

at some point the germans will not want to subsidize everybody and they'll go back they'll go back to their mark

3:17

and they'll go back to the drachma and devalue it when i lived in greece what greece is doing now happened all

3:23

the time and all they would do is devalue the currency inflate the economy and then sort of

3:28

laugh and sleep their way back to prosperity and they can't do that now with the euro but they will be able to when it breaks

3:34

apart i think it will gradually it'll be an insidious process it won't be a it'll be with a whimper rather than

3:40

a bank you're familiar with mark stein's argument in america alone that muslim immigration and high muslim birth

3:47

rates are transforming europe into eurasia recent events in europe june 9 dutch

3:54

elections gert wilder's party for freedom wins 24 seats becoming the third biggest

4:00

party in parliament september 14th the french senate approves a ban on wearing the burqa a ban that had

4:06

already passed the french assembly by 335 to one september 19th the swedes

4:12

hold elections and a party called sweden democrats wins 20 seats in the 349-member parliament i'll quote the ap

4:19

quote the far-right party we're talking about sweden democrats demands sharp cuts in immigration and

4:25

has called islam the greatest foreign threat since world war ii close quote so

4:33

the drift to eurabia is being arrested europe there's a european that there's a reassertion of europe proper

4:40

they have two problems and it's it it transcends demography because in theory it wouldn't matter how many

4:46

muslims came if they became good europeans that's not happening for two reasons the european left is multicultural and that

4:52

is they don't believe in themselves they can't argue that europe is better than the alternative they have no

4:57

concept of the history or appreciation of the renaissance renaissance enlightenment they don't see themselves

5:03

exceptional so then why should people who come see them as exceptional so they're not

5:08

integrating people in the way the united states is doing a much better job at least until recently and then

5:13

the other problem is europe's always been for all of its socialism a class-bound society it doesn't intermarry it doesn't

5:19

integrate as well as the united states we're a plutocratic society you can get status by making money no matter what

5:26

you look like where your parents were born or where you go to school in europe you're always located in time and space by where you were born

5:33

the sound of your voice who your parents were and that makes it very hard for immigrants to get social economic cultural acceptance

5:40

and you put that left and right wing impediment and then you end up with something like rotterdam or the suburbs around paris

5:48

i'm very pessimistic about that in rotterdam or suburbs around paris you have an extremely dense muslim-only

5:54

population where there's a at least a tendency towards sharia they're simply it's simply a kind of um

6:00

muslim world implanted in europe and it's full of self-contradictions where they want to

6:05

escape the autocracy the middle east and the poverty they come to the west and they are given freedom but then they resent the fact

6:12

that they're unequal they want instant parity because that's what they've told the eu does and then the eu says well we give them

6:17

all this money we give them all these entitlements as long as they don't come into our neighborhoods
why are they angry

6:22

so the problem is insoluble it's unsoluble all right um europe and the united states cnn

6:28

online on september 28th quote a potential plot against europe was one factor contributing to the

6:34

uptick this month in missile strikes by unmanned drones against terrorist targets in pakistan

6:39

according to a u.s official the u.s official is quoted as saying we would be remiss not to try to take action
to thwart what

6:46

might be underway in europe close quote it's a long way

6:52

a long time since europe lay prostrate in the ruins of the prostate prostrate

6:59

by reaching the age at which that difference matters uh in after the second world war this is

7:04

now a rich society why isn't the defense of europe the business

7:10

of europe two reasons one is that it's true it's a generic generic truth

7:15

for any society that the more affluent and leisure they become the less they're willing to make sacrifices
you add that to the

7:21

demographic paradigm paradox where you only have one child who's a precious child

7:27

so that european parents are saying we need more money for for all these social entitlements

7:32

especially as we age we only have one child we don't want to lose them in some god-awful place like afghanistan

7:37

that creates a utopian pacifism but why should we americans continue to insulate

7:42

them from reality well we've been taking nothing but the back of their hand since the war on

7:47

radical islam began we do because 1917 and 1918 and the failure of the

7:54

versailles accords and then the disasters from when we got in 41 to 45 and we said

8:00

we decided somewhere around 1946 that these people will kill each other

8:06

and they will draw us in unless we create the united nations or nato or

8:12

they create the eu and that was the premise but the pro what we never in our wireless imaginations thought is

8:18

that the more that we would subsidize their defense the more like angry petulant teenagers

8:23

they would resent their parents for that subsidy and that's what's happened segment two asia victor davis hanson

8:29

quote one of two rather bleak asian futures seems likely either

8:34

an ascendant china will dictate the foreign policies of japan south korea and taiwan or lots of new

8:41

freelancing powers will appear to deter china since it cannot count on an insolvent u.s for protection close quote

8:49

so which of those two do you consider more likely well they're not antithetical as as we just saw with the

8:54

uh the the problem with the japanese and the chinese over fishing boat and what we're seeing is that china wants

9:01

recognition influence and power commiserate with its economic success so it's basically letting it be

9:08

known to places like taiwan japan the philippines south korea that

9:13

this is our area of influence and they're looking to us and saying is that true or not because

9:18

you're way over there and we have to deal with all of this chinese money and we're saying

9:24

we don't know we have budget deficits uh and so what's happening is i think

9:30

that within the next 20 years japan will probably very seriously take a look at going nuclear

9:36

south korea may have to go nuclear and if they don't go nuclear they're going to become

9:41

under the influence of china's bullying and i think that's the problem we're having right now um

9:50

why shouldn't the future of asia lie in asian hands this is a this is a variation of the

9:55

question i just asked about europe what is the american interest why shouldn't we after getting drawn into the second

10:01

world war and having had to police all of the pacific since the attack on

10:07

pearl harbor why shouldn't we say thank goodness japan you're a rich society taiwan

10:12

you're very handle the problems yourselves work it

10:17

history doesn't start at a and then end at z it's cyclical so we look at asia before

10:24

we got involved and we saw what japan's co-prosperity sphere was like and then we saw again in the 50s what

10:30

the mao and stalin had envisioned for places as diverse as korea or vietnam and we

10:37

said you know what that's not going to happen we're going to let these countries just fight decide

10:42

their own futures and they're going to be consensual and they're going to be capitalists and the result you can't criticize the result i mean we created

10:49

things like everything from south korean kias to japanese hondas

10:54

by the by allowing those people in asia to be free and have their own destiny in their own hands and

11:01

that's what we're trying to do we're not trying to interfere we're just trying to say if countries want to be uh self-determinate and free the united

11:08

states is going to promote that and we're going to do that because that's our values and every time we didn't do that we get

11:14

drawn in because as our president says we're a pacific pacific country uh

11:20

as recently as the clinton administration when china engaged in military maneuvers

11:27

on the strait of taiwan opposite taiwan we sent an aircraft carrier group

11:32

through yes this used to be called the strait of formosa the strait it still does on my map

11:37

in the kitchen would we do that today i don't think so i think that obama believes or president

11:43

obama believes that problems in the world are a result of misunderstanding miscommunication

11:50

mixed signals and because he's so eloquent and charismatic non-traditional

11:55

appeals to what the way most of the people in the world think and look he thinks at least in his own words he

12:00

says that then by his singular diplomacy he can iron out these differences he doesn't see

12:06

that most problems in asia and in the world in general both predated and transcended

12:11

george bush and his way of thinking bush did it he was a twangy texan christian he didn't

12:16

have my heritage and landscape that i bring to the problem and therefore things got

12:22

worse and now i'm here and they're going to get better that therapeutic approach didn't quite work you talked about the result of free

12:29

markets in asia can't argue with that you said new york times columnist thomas friedman this is writing in september

12:35

quote one party autocracy certainly has its drawbacks but when it is led by a reasonably

12:42

enlightened group of people as china is today it can also have great advantages

12:47

it is not an accident that china is committed to overtaking us in electric cars solar power energy

12:52

efficiency batteries nuclear power and wind power close quote what do you

12:57

make of this what's called the beijing consensus this emerging view that maybe they actually

13:03

are better suited to the future than our form of government if you gave me 10 minutes and the internet i could give you quote

13:08

almost a verbatim quote from what left-wing people said about mussolini and the 20s and what right-wing people like charles

13:15

lindbergh said about germany same thing they make the trains run on time they make the trains and their efficiency

13:20

but china has a rendezvous with uh radical pollution problems cleanup

13:27

demographic problems it's shrinking population water stein says they'll grow old before they grow rich

13:33

yeah one child with male ch imbalance between the sexes they somehow

13:39

their brilliant foreign policy cooked up a nuclear pakistan a nuclear north korea

13:45

a nuclear russia soon to be a nuclear iran and maybe

13:50

in the future in nuclear uh taiwan and japan all on their borders so they've got problems that they have

13:56

rendezvous with all of them and i don't get this fascination because you fly into the

14:02

shanghai airport and everything looks great in a way that kennedy doesn't then suddenly

14:07

they're the the avatars of the future what thomas friedman would need to do is get on a bicycle and go across rural

14:13

china and then compare that with biking across nebraska and see which society is more resilient and stable

14:19

segment three south of the border victor davis hanson quote mexico devolves daily into a more

14:26

corrupt and violent place than iraq or pakistan the fossilized leadership in mexico city

14:32

shows no interest in reforming counting on the more than 20 billion in remittances remittances that return to

14:38

the country each year but americans are tired of picking up the tab to subsidize nearly

14:44

15 million poor illegal aliens close quote mexico bad and getting worse you want to

14:51

stick with that assertion oh yeah i think so okay let me give you a counter argument about the mexican government yeah

14:57

far from proving passive for four years the president of mexico felipe calderon

15:03

has been struggling to recapture control of the country from the drug organizations

15:08

28 000 mexicans killed in this two thousand of them stayed in federal police so i put it to you victor that you ought

15:15

to support calderon's effort to regain control of his country at least as stoutly as you

15:21

supported george w bush's effort to but that's a different emergency that's a different question because draw the distinctions because we're in the

15:27

11th hour in mexico this is a tactical decision the mexican government in an existential war's

15:33

existence says at the 11th hour we've got to finally turn on these drug leaders and corruption but what they don't make

15:39

the connection is that if you didn't have drug cartels you'd have to invent them in mexico because when you have a

15:45

statist economy and a non-transparent economy and a

15:50

class-bound racist culture you're going to get racist meaning the spanish descent especially yes indigenous indigenous

15:57

peoples and when you have all of those problems that have not been addressed and papered over then you're going to

16:03

get something like the drug cartel and you're going to have to fight it but the real question is is president

16:09

caldwell is he going to bring in transparency is he going to open up the society

16:16

foreign investment is he going to readjust the tax code is he going to allow people to have uh buy and sell land

16:23

freely and have changed so you're so you're being so impatient because they're along the this is but along the texas border they were

16:29

doing pretty well and in monterey which is the second biggest city in mexico in the last decade business has become more

16:35

normal in monterey it's a wealthy you can do business in monterey almost as easily as in miami there are spots where they're improving

16:40

in mexico no peter there's two there's two okay there's a highway in the indigenous part of mexico and the

16:46

center and mexican government says if you live in chiapas if you live in oaxaca i suggest you go north

16:52

go north and for the first time in your life we will champion your civil rights when you get arrested in the tulare

16:58

county jail and by the way send us 25 billion dollars a year so

17:04

that we don't have to pay for social programs for your families but on the other side on the western

17:09

coast suddenly we're going to discover things like property rights investment because we're going to build

17:14

and advertise resort communities in baka for wealthy white people to have a second and third home

17:20

so you ask yourself if mexico can do that in baja why can't they do anything in oaxaca and the answer is that we're

17:28

getting back into a statist state-run economy a corrupt elite a racist elite

17:33

and a united states that all they have to say is the mexican war the treaty of guadalupe

17:39

hilda anything any one of those buzzwords and people are supposed to forget all of their

17:45

complaints against the mexican government so they march i just want to push you a little bit on the trajectory you really think calderon is worse than

17:50

um lopez portillo in the 80s i think he's better i think

17:55

that but that's not the question the question is is he going to address the underlying problem

18:01

that makes mexico mexico i think for his political no he doesn't he can't he's not in a position to do that so he's going to survive

18:07

perhaps by taking on people who would i mean it's he has no choice he either fights back

18:12

or he doesn't exist but the question is is he going to be able to convince the elite to make the sort of changes

18:19

that would turn it into a country like chile or the united states and the answer is no counter-argument on

18:25

immigration since 2005 the inflow of illegal aliens from mexico has dropped by two-thirds

18:31

part of that is because we have a weaker economy up here the magnet is less powerful but part of it is surely increased american resources at

18:38

the border including the incomplete border fence incomplete but a couple hundred miles in place

18:44

so my word to you is victor relax the worst of the immigration problem is

18:49

already over americans will calm down as they see that we're reasserting

18:55

control at the border and then over a period of time these x million who are here illegally can be

19:02

digested dealt with assimilated that's the counter argument what do you make of it well i wrote an article called

19:08

mexicoifornia do we want mexifornia in 2002 and the book came out in 2003 and that's exactly what

19:14

i said i said we have to have increased border support scrutiny we have to find employers if we have an

19:20

economic downturn it will not be so attractive we have to push assimilation we have to build a fence

19:26

a lot of us wrote that and the result of all of that pressuring it's working is we're starting to work but the pro the central problem is

19:33

that there's a two-pronged dilemma the right wants to close the border and

19:38

assimilate people and that we should and we should deport people who just got here we should deport people who are on entitlements

19:44

and not working we should support people who have a criminal record but there's still going to be seven or eight million people here

19:50

who are following the rules and working and came under under the assumption it was open borders so we're going to have to

19:56

work with them earn citizenship make them we have a lot of leverage for the first time we can say to somebody

20:01

yeah you can listen to spanish television you can do all that bilingual interpreters and all that but you're going to have to learn english you're

20:06

going to have to take a test about american citizenship we can do that but we can work with them and on the other hand the left we know

20:13

once we when you're talking about things are getting better they are but we're still talking about 500 to 700

20:18

000 attempted crossings per year and we know the left wants to remake

20:24

the political constituencies of the american southwest for political purposes and we know that there's a small elite

20:30

of the chicano community in journalism politics and the university who wants to have a permanent underclass

20:37

that they can attribute that that a failure to achieve parity on the basis of racism and therefore them themselves are the

20:45

spokesman and they do pretty well and that's where the left is on that issue so we're going

20:50

to have to close the border and work with the people that are here that are law abiding and working i think everybody understands that victor you're

20:56

a fifth generation california yes all right question about california our

21:01

state of california the hispanic proportion of the population has risen from about

21:07

16 percent in 1970 to about 37 percent today in the decade from 1990 to 2000

21:16

two million more people left california than entered from other states the census of 2010 will

21:22

surely show an even larger number so what you've got here basically is

21:28

largely white middle-class californians moving out in large numbers so this is a crude question but i don't

21:35

know how else to phrase it has california passed the tipping point it's hard to know because i don't know what hispanic or mexican

21:42

means anymore i've got a brother who's married to a mexican woman i've got another brother who's got two

21:47

uh stepchildren that are half mexican american i've got a friend whose grandson is half

21:52

a one-quarter mexican one-quarter asian that's all good news right it's getting better absolutely they're americans everybody

21:57

you name thinks of himself what i'm thinking is happening in california is we have an elite that trills

22:03

trills their r's and at their name joe lopez they call themselves jose lopez and then they find career

22:12

opportunities in the media in the universities but while that professional hispanic exactly but while

22:17

that's going on and the muscular classes people are intermarrying and they're starting to interact and

22:24

assimilate even though they were told the melting pot is passe the salad bowl and it's not true so that is very

22:30

positive and the tragedy is if we would just stop the border close the border and wait a decade and a

22:37

half and let it mix up and then allow mexico to have 50 000 legal immigrants per year

22:43

privilege them a little bit more than other countries we could solve this problem in 20 years segment 4 the new evil empire victor

22:49

davis hanson quote oil rich russia deprived of its communist era empire

22:54

seems to find lost imperial prestige and influence by being for everything the united states is against selling

23:01

nuclear material to iran providing weapons to hugo chavez's venezuela bullying neighbors over energy

23:07

supplies close quote what are the russians

23:13

thinking they're thinking wow we've got a president and we've got

23:19

an administration that for a brief window of opportunity really wants to reach out and really does believe that the

23:26

deterioration in russian american relations was because of george bush and not because

23:31

of things like cutting off gas to eastern europe or pressuring the balkans or pressuring

23:36

europe or pressuring the former soviet republics any of that and this is a time really to

23:43

reach out praise this administration to the skies and then take them to the cleaners and the result is that they're helping iran

23:49

get a bomb they're helping arm our enemies and uh they like but they like the status quo here's the

23:56

piece that doesn't the piece of the puzzle it's a big piece of the puzzle it doesn't make sense to me russian mortality rate extremely high

24:03

birth rate extremely low their economy almost zero it's purely extractive industries

24:08

that is to say they have any the only wealth they have is because they happen to sit on top of land that contains

24:14

oil minerals natural gas which they can sell to genuinely productive economies this is

24:20

not a good long-term picture the muslims i'm not talking about the kazakhstan and this

24:25

stand and the other side but within russia proper itself exactly you've got a large muslim

24:30

population and the birth rate is so much greater in the muslim population in russia

24:36

than that of the russians proper that by 2050 russia will be more than 50 muslim so if you're vladimir putin and

24:43

you are trying to preserve some kind of mother russia this is an argument that leaders

24:49

and actors they ought to be doing business with us they ought to be they ought to be begging us for alliances peter and peter peter that's

24:55

like saying that on june 22 1941 the world war ii was essentially over

25:00

from the atlantic ocean all the way to the russian border from the arctic circle to the sahara desert it was all a

25:05

german reich and why in the world would adolf hitler invade russia when russia was giving them more

25:12

natural resources to do things like bomb britain than they ever got when they actually occupied the country for four years

25:18

so it was absolute lunacy to act against his own self-interest but he did and why because he had some crackpot

25:26

notion of uh uber mention and the ukraine and the slavs and this is the same thing

25:32

with putin he's thinks he's angry about the cold war he's angry at the loss of empire he's angry

25:38

angry that we stopped him we helped kill russians in afghanistan he's angry angry angry and you could sit down

25:44

you can say vladimir what you did in chechnya is the future you guys are i mean wow you've got problems with

25:50

radical islam and you've got all the things you've delineated it's not in your interest to be estranged from the united states your

25:56

natural ally and uh it's not it's an emotional thing and he likes the idea that

26:02

we get tangled up in iraq we get tangled up in afghanistan we get tangled up in places with israel in the middle east we

26:07

get tangled up with the iranian bomb and and this is all good that we and by the way the more

26:12

that we get tangled up and if there's going to be any preemptive strike in iran or a right the price of

26:18

oil goes up chaos makes run uh russian profits as far as oil going so what what you are

26:24

asserting here victor is even though we're talking about russia in the 21st century

26:32

you're asserting something that comes from your understanding of uh of the classics this is greek tragedy

26:38

this is this is the perversity of human nature choosing the bone-headed course of

26:44

action if i could why do i mean if i could even though it wasn't a direct quote

26:49

from the historian thucydides he doesn't say that states attack other states because they want their

26:55

uh pot um you know their soil to make pots or they want uh olive oil or something they do it for

27:02

honor fear and self-interest they act on emotional responses so asking me why

27:07

russia would act against her self-interest is the same thing of saying why in the world would argentina in the

27:13

middle of a depression with a dictator invade the falklands against the british navy people do stupid things for emotional

27:20

reasons that i think have a lot to do with their fears and their sense of honor one more question about russia let me

27:26

quote ellen berman of the american foreign policy council he's writing in the washington times quote the bulk of russia's strategic

27:32

resources are concentrated in a country's inhospitable far east siberia and east

27:40

this is a territory that a dying russia low birth rates will find increasingly difficult to harness let alone to populate in the

27:47

years ahead china doesn't have that problem

27:52

again can't putin see this his problem is with his problems with

27:58

china dwarf any problems he has with us why isn't he i it should be i agree absolutely i

28:04

think if you could sit down you could convince him and then he would still smile at you and say you're absolutely right but he has certain reasons for

28:10

being angry at the united states or at least seeing us have problems and the more problems we have as i said the more chaos we have

28:18

the less uh the less smug and secure we are as the winner of the cold war the more

28:23

that the world is tense that the energy prices stay high but he's got a rendezvous with the chinese as long as uh

28:30

along with many other things like demographic and health issues of the population segment five iran daniel gordus writing

28:38

in the october issue of commentary notes two events this past august

28:43

one iran fired up its first nuclear reactor two the obama administration let it be

28:50

known through a leak to the new york times that iran was still at least a year away

28:55

from a nuclear weapon and that the administration had convinced israel that

29:00

there was no imminent threat let me quote daniel gordus the united states

29:06

was determined not to view the working iranian reactor as a crisis requiring immediate and determined

29:12

attention the news accelerated the sense inside the jewish state

29:18

that action against iran would be unavoidable and that israelis would not be delivered

29:23

from taking action themselves close quote has daniel gorgeous got that right

29:29

yeah i think so i mean with obama we've seen the rhineland we've seen the anschluss we've seen the suit line

29:35

now all that's left is the invasion of poland so we know what ahmadineji he came to the united this is after one

29:41

relocation after another yeah after we reached out obama sent him a video we had a real genuine chance of some

29:47

revolutionary democratic activity uh last spring and obama voted present on that and did not

29:53

encourage people because he thought that his own unique profile would be so necessary to deal with a problem like

29:59

ahmadinejad when we just wouldn't want a bunch of democratic people out in the streets it'd be too simple and he wouldn't be needed but

30:05

nevertheless we miss that opportunity i don't know if it would have been uh determinant or not but it was an

30:11

opportunity and now we're going down this road and we know where it ends and each time that

30:18

obama said he shook his finger and he said you better do this by the g20 you better do this by the u.n meeting you

30:24

better do this by the first of the year and he's given about four deadlines and they don't matter and now we get insulted at the u.n and i

30:31

think it's pretty clear that mr ahmadinejad is going to smile and say he has no interest in nuclear weapons

30:38

and then one day sometime in the next 18 months he's going to tell us he's got the bomb and then

30:43

that's it i have a question here from a ricochet member trace erden who asks an interesting question

30:48

you were just talking about this this moment of opportunity and he writes did

30:54

president obama gain anything by appealing to ordinary muslims using the bully pulpit to celebrating ramadan and

31:01

the white house accomplish anything i don't think it did i mean if you came from mars and you said are

31:08

muslims still trying to kill americans yes mr mutalab is mr hassan was yes they are in times square as

31:13

you and i are speaking right now headlines in all the newspapers that muslim sleeper agents are all over europe trying to

31:19

kill europeans and americans as we look at afghanistan if we look at

31:24

the situation in the middle east if you look at the pew polls of public opinion

31:29

i don't see any difference the only difference that i see is that whereas we might have been disliked uh under

31:37

george bush there was some fear that george bush was unpredictable and maybe a little scary

31:42

or dangerous now there's a sense that we're disliked and that we are very

31:47

predictable and not at all scary um the sunni arabs and this includes a lot of rich

31:53

countries saudi arabia the gulf states are suspicious of nervous about wary of the shia in iran

32:01

the ambassador to the united states of the united arab emirates a man called yusuf al otaiba i'm sure i mispronouncing it but

32:08

that's the best i can do speaking in august quote i'm quoting an arab ambassador we cannot

32:14

live with a nuclear iran i am willing to absorb what takes place close quote so you have the sunni

32:22

threatened by iran directly you have israel threatened by iran directly

32:29

let them sort out the costs the benefits how it is to be done but let them do it

32:36

we don't need to get involved i think that reflects the majority opinion in the united states right now along

32:42

with that well there's not a lot i mean first of all because they're not going to do any they're not capable of doing

32:47

anything and the problem is who's going to spell this can't pull off you don't think so no but i i share your

32:53

frustration because you know that the moment we do something that same speaker as well as

32:59

saudis egyptians will then attack us publicly for uh harming fellow muslims and then

33:05

privately sending us a telegram of congratulations with the premise that we are sophisticated americans

33:11

we're adults we have to accept that they have to deal with the street but yeah and we're tired of that

33:17

we've done it for too long and so the answer that's a it's a terrible situation with only bad and

33:22

worst choices because basically it's this is the dilemma that we're faced with only we can ensure that

33:27

they don't get a bomb and yet if we do ensure that they don't get a bomb there's going to be terrorism

33:33

there's going to be chaos there's going to be oil and it's going to affect us more than anybody and everybody knows that victor

33:39

here's a big here's the big question in some ways it's been lurking beneath everything

33:46

we've said seven years of fighting in iraq

33:53

and the newspaper this morning is maliki is clinging to power their maneuver they still don't have a functioning government seven years of fighting in

34:00

afghanistan polls show that americans want to get out and we still don't have a clear

34:06

route to victory bob woodward's latest book shows the administration in total disarray the president trying to

34:12

divide the difference china's rising india is rising our ship brazil is

34:19

rising our share of world gross domestic product has been shrinking since the second world war so aren't we

34:27

just in about the same position that britain was in in the middle of the last century it's over we're not going to be number

34:34

one country able to dominate the globe keep pox americana

34:39

was wonderful while it lasted but we have to cede our position at least in part to others

34:48

with good grace or ill grace we have to do but that's only one half of the equation when you mention britain when it seeded its positions and

34:54

in the mediterranean or in africa or it gave up its empire which it should have done probably but the reason why that's where

35:02

it had to though because it made a terrible mistake and that in the 19 late 40s and 50s it nationalized its steel

35:08

its automobile its power it's became a social redistributed state and that was why we got out of the

35:15

depression and they didn't really i mean we got out of the depression because we spent all this money in world war ii but then when

35:21

the tab came due in 1946 and all of a sudden the world was flattened and we were the

35:27

only capitalist free market society that for the next 10 years could supply goods and services and pay

35:34

off her debt britain couldn't because it's i mean in germany if you looked at liverpool and frankfurt and 19 i mean liverpool

35:41

and dresden or hamburg in 1945 it would have been one picture if you looked them in 1960 it would have been

35:47

quite another be like hiroshima and detroit the same contrast victor last question

35:52

to ensure then so you see a sense of possibility here you don't see things inevitably closing in this is not greek

35:59

tragedy this is not an inevitable closing in on the united states that once was to ensure that the 21st century is as

36:06

much an american century as the 20th what do we need to do decline is a

36:12

choice it always is by every society when rome fell apart in the fifth century it its enemies were just a

36:17

fraction of what they were during the punic war 600 years earlier what we need to do is to ensure that

36:23

we're a merecratic state and that people advance or fail according to their skill their hard work

36:29

their ambition and their knowledge and skill expertise and we have to have a transparent lawful

36:34

society we have to have a dynamic economy and if we decide that we are no longer an

36:41

econom in a quality of opportunity society but we're going to be an equality

36:46

result and you look at where that leads to whether it's venezuela cuba the eu greece or the pernicious

36:53

forms in the former eastern europe it leads nowhere to surf so that's the real question the united

36:59

states has got everything it needs it's got a large population it's the only truly multi-racial successful state in the

37:05

world it's got a wonderful constitution we inherited infrastructure and expertise and traditions from our

37:11

forefathers however if we think that we're going to be we're not going to be good unless we're

37:17

perfect and we're going to socially engineer pre-determined results about human nature and we're going to do this with a

37:23

technocratic class like plato's overseers or guardians and we're going to have an all-powerful

37:28

monolithic state that's going to direct our lives and destroy american initiative then yeah we're going to end

37:34

up like england about 1950. it's inevitable victor davis-hansen

37:39

thank you very much thank you i'm peter robinson for uncommon knowledge in the hoover institution

37:44

thanks for joining us

37:50

you

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